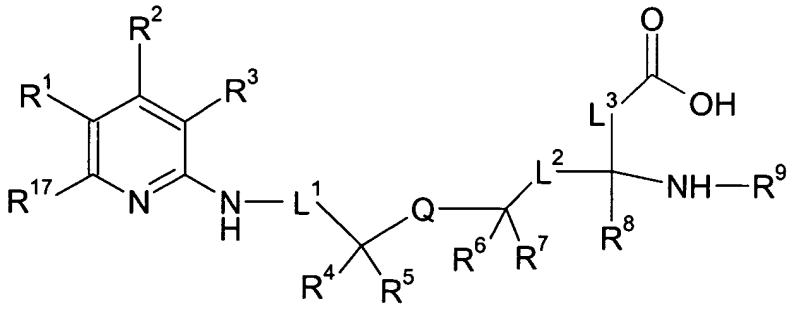
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^{17} independently represent H, halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CN, $MeS(O)_m$ or $NR^{10}R^{11}$; said alkyl group being optionally further substituted by OH or one or more halogen atoms;

L^1 represents $CR^{12}R^{13}$ wherein R^{12} and R^{13} independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH, C1 to 2 alkoxy, CN or one or more halogen atoms;

L^2 represents a bond or $CR^{12}R^{13}$ wherein R^{12} and R^{13} independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH, C1 to 2 alkoxy, CN or one or more halogen atoms;

L^3 represents $-CH_2-$ or a bond;

R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 independently represent H, C1 to 6 alkyl, Ar^1 or Ar^1–C1 to 4 alkyl;

or R^4 and R^5, or R^6 and R^7, may be joined together such that the group CR^4R^5 or the group CR^6R^7 represents a C3 to 6 cycloalkyl ring;

Q represents O, $S(O)_n$ or NR^{16};

R^{16} represents H, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 alkanoyl, C1 to 6 alkyl–SO_2–,
C1 to 6 alkyl–O–CO–, Ar^2 or Ar^2–CH_2–;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 independently represents phenyl or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or heteroaromatic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, CF_3, C1 to 3 alkyl, C1 to 3 alkoxy, hydroxy, C1 to 3 thioalkoxy or $NR^{14}R^{15}$;

m and n independently represent an integer 0, 1 or 2;

R^8 represents H or C1 to 4 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH, C1 to 2 alkoxy, CN or one or more halogen atoms;

R^9 represents H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

R^{10} and R^{11} independently represent H, C1 to 2 alkyl, C1 to 2 alkanoyl or C1 to 2 alkylsulfonyl;

R^{14} and R^{15} independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 2 alkyl–SO_2–, or C1 to 4 alkanoyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH, C1 to 2 alkoxy, CN or one or more halogen atoms;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Q represents S.

3. (Original) A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, which is:
S-[2-[(4-methyl-2-pyridinyl)amino]ethyl]-L-cysteine;
S-[2-[(4-methoxy-2-pyridinyl)amino]ethyl]-L-cysteine;
S-[2-[(4-methyl-2-pyridinyl)amino]pentyl]-L-cysteine;
S-[2-[(4-methyl-2-pyridinyl)amino]propyl]-L-cysteine;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

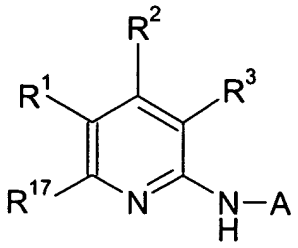
6-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, human diseases or conditions in which inhibition of nitric oxide synthase activity is beneficial which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or at increased risk of, such diseases or conditions.

14. (Currently amended) A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, inflammatory disease in a person suffering from, or at risk of, said disease, wherein the method comprises administering to the person a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a first compound of formula (I), as defined in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, wherein the process ~~[wherein variable groups are, unless otherwise specified, as defined in Claim 1]~~ comprises:

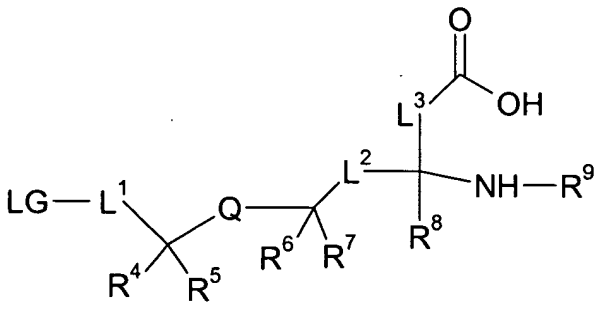
(a) reaction of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein A represents H, alkanoyl or carboxyalkanoyl,

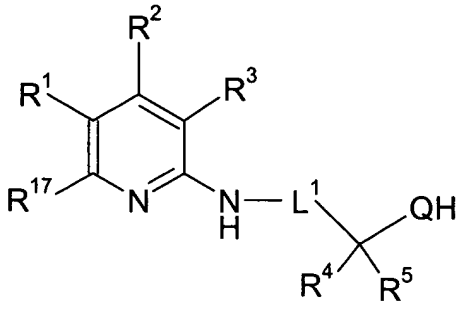
with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

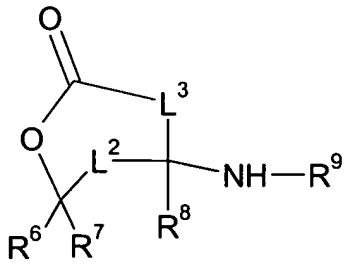
wherein LG represents a leaving group; or

(b) when Q represents S, reaction of a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

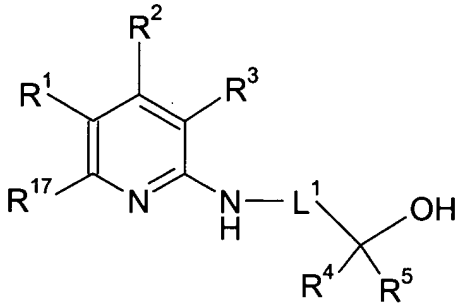
with a compound of formula (V)



(V)

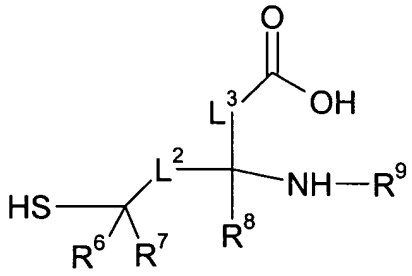
or

(c) when Q represents S, reacting a compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

with a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

under Mitsunobu conditions;

under Mitsunobu conditions;

wherein the variable groups shown above are, unless otherwise specified, as defined in Claim 1; and where desired or necessary converting the ~~resultant~~ first compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting [[one]] the first compound of formula (I) into ~~another~~ a second compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the ~~resultant~~ first compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof.

16. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein it is predominantly inducible nitric oxide synthase that is inhibited.

17. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

18. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the disease is osteoarthritis.

19. (New) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of pain, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (New) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory disease, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a COX-2 inhibitor.